

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

As Marines, we are held to a very high standard of conduct and our nation expects the Marine Corps to answer the call whenever and wherever needed. Substance abuse, of any kind, detrimentally impacts our ability to uphold that sacred contract. If left unchecked, substance abuse can erode morale and discipline within a unit, ultimately leading to degradation in readiness.

When you abuse drugs, alcohol, or other substances, you are likely to make poor decisions and put your fellow Marines and Sailors at risk. This behavior is clearly incompatible with our institutional values and demonstrates a complete disregard for our team. In many cases, individuals who succumb to substance abuse act in an unbecoming manner and one that clearly puts our reputation in jeopardy.

Leadership is critical to combat substance abuse in our ranks. Every member of Marine Air Support Squadron 2 must understand the indications and warnings. Prevention of substance abuse is a leadership responsibility.

MCO 5300.17 clearly articulates the requirements of the Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program. Key elements of the program include awareness through training and education, prevention, timely identification, and treatment. Prevention awareness training provides requisite knowledge of the effects of alcohol and drug abuse, to ultimately assist in making responsible decisions.

Alcohol abuse and the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, trafficking, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps mission, and will not be tolerated. Alcohol and drug offenses will be dealt with swiftly and effectively and they include involvement with designer drugs, natural substances (e.g. fungi), chemicals (e.g. chemicals wrongfully used as inhalants), propellants, or prescribed or over-the-counter drugs or pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to induce intoxication or impact to one's own central nervous system, or that of another. Actions associated with this behavior will result in adverse administrative or punitive action.

We need all Marines in the fight and if we can prevent a tragedy through intervention, then it is our obligation to do so. Marines operate in an inherently stressful environment and leaders at all levels need to be attuned to the signs of substance abuse so that we can prevent irreparable harm to our individual Marines and our unit.

If you believe someone to be struggling with substance abuse or violating this policy, notify the chain of command and the Marine Air Support Squadron 2 Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO).

Semper Fidelis,



M. S. McFADDEN
Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer, Marine Air Support Squadron 2